

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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MT. VERNON MAN INDICTED FOR POSSESSING CRACK COCAINE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 6, 2006, **CHRISTOPHER J. TATE**, age 23, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was named in a one count Indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, charging him with possession of crack cocaine. The indictment was originally suppressed, but has since been unsealed.

TATE faces a penalty of 5-20 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of up to 4 years.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury. TATE is being held in the custody of the United States Marshal Service pending his trial.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.